(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has ever drawn the attention of the Central Government that the present bridge has become very weak and it is of strategic importance; and

(c) if so, by when the new proposed bridge is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to construct an additional 2-lane bridge parallel to the existing 2-lane bridge as part of the 4-laning work under East-West Corridor (NHDP Phase-ll).

(b) No, Sir. The existing bridge over river Banas is in good condition.

(c) The contract for construction of road from Radhanpur to Deesa of NH-14 (km. 458.00 to km. 372.6) including construction of additional 2-lane bridge over river Banas has already been awarded. The work is likely to be started in the Month of March, 2005.

Transportation from Assam to Tripura

2348. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to take up suitable programme in advance to safeguard the process of transportation from Assam to Tripura from disruption and dislocation of traffic on National Highway-44 in Assam and Meghalaya sector;

(b) if so, the details of the programme; and

(c) whether the programme would be implemented before commencement of the rainy season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI *KM.* MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Border Roads Organization, who are developing and maintaining NH-44 have already drawn up the Action Plan for deploying requisite machinery at the slide point well before the monsoons for the clearance of slide occurrence, if any, immediately for smooth flow of traffic from Assam to Tripura.